

*Summit proposes a "local-first"
solution to economic crisis.*

March 21 & 22, 2009
Wyndham Cleveland Playhouse Square

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For Immediate Release

Leadership Summit 2009

"Community Organization for a Healthy Economy"

www.LeadershipSummit2009.com

Cleveland, Ohio March 13, 2009 - Leadership Summit 2009 presents resources for growing true community wealth on March 21st and 22nd with a lineup of [national, regional and local thought leaders](#) at the Wyndham Cleveland.

This two-day interdisciplinary symposium includes a keynote address by **Michael Shuman**, author of *"The Small-Mart Revolution"*. A much needed gathering place to cultivate empowerment among local leaders, Leadership Summit 2009 will discuss strategies and provide examples of how communities can create jobs and increase local economic stability.

The event intends to re-frame the current economic crisis as an opportunity to engage local communities into collective action. Concerned citizens and forward thinking professionals in business, government, and the not-for-profit sector are invited to attend and participate.

"For years, economic developers have looked for new wealth from outside their communities and overlooked the huge opportunities in their own backyard", said Shuman. "The localization movement encourages communities to take stock of these untapped resources. That's especially important, as today's economic downturn increases the pressure on every town and city to do more with less."

The objectives of the symposium are to:

1. Define "*sustainability*" and the components of a healthy economy.
2. Identify & explain the economic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.
3. Provide practical solutions for families & businesses to "weather the storm" and even prosper during this economic downturn.

Participants will receive a resource manual to help identify and develop assets by investing in energy efficiency, local food and energy production, new educational designs and local entrepreneurship. The format includes keynote addresses, panel discussions, presentations and open format discussions. Each session is designed to make connections between research, policy and practice as related to the development of a healthy community.

Visit www.LeadershipSummit2009.com or email info@open-roads.net for more information.